

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

According to the Office Action, restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 2-8, 10, 16-22, drawn to a retroviral vector for carrying double stranded RNA into a cell comprising a promoter, a polylinker, and a target gene specific insert comprising dsRNA wherein the retroviral vector further comprises a reporter gene Hygro and wherein the retroviral vector is a MSCV-U6-Hygro having SEQ ID NO. 10, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5. This group is subject to a further species election.

II. Claims 2-8, 10, 16-22, drawn to a retroviral vector for carrying double stranded RNA into a cell comprising a promoter, a polylinker, and a target gene specific insert comprising dsRNA, wherein the retroviral vector further comprises a reporter gene Puro and wherein the retroviral vector is a MSCV-U6-Puro having SEQ ID NO. 11, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5. This group is subject to a further species election.

III. Claims 2-8, 10, 16-22, drawn to a retroviral vector for carrying double stranded RNA into a cell comprising a promoter, a polylinker, and a target gene specific insert comprising dsRNA wherein the retroviral vector further comprises a reporter gene hrGFP and wherein the retroviral vector is a MSCV-U6-hrGFP having SEQ ID NO. 12, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5. This group is subject to a further species election.

IV. Claims 2-7, 9-15, drawn to a retroviral vector for carrying double stranded RNA into a cell comprising a promoter, a polylinker, and a target gene specific insert comprising dsRNA wherein the retroviral vector is a modified Lentivirus vector, wherein the vector comprises a reporter gene Blasti and wherein the vector is pLenti-U6-Blasti having SEQ ID NO. 8, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5. This group is subject to a further species election.

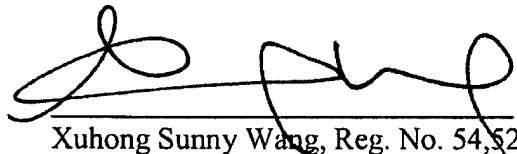
V. Claims 2-7, 9-15, drawn to a retroviral vector for carrying double stranded RNA into a cell comprising a promoter, a polylinker, and a target gene specific insert comprising dsRNA wherein the retroviral vector is a modified Lentivirus vector, wherein the vector comprises a reporter gene hrGFP and wherein the vector is pLenti-U6-hrGFP having SEQ ID NO. 9, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5. This group is subject to a further species election.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement on Groups I-V. Restriction is proper only if all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct

and there would be a **serious** search and examination burden if restriction were not required. While Applicants have no dispute that the inventions are patentably distinct, however, the groups of this instant invention have acquired similar status in the art in view of their identical classification (in same class 536 and subclass 24.5). They require same field of search (for example, searching same classes/subclasses). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that maintaining the inventions of Groups I-V in a single application does not impose a **serious** search burden on the Examiner because when one group of instant invention is searched, it will reveal information concerning other groups of instant invention due to their identical classification. For this reason, Applicants maintain that the claims of Groups I-V should be examined together.

A request for a one-month extension of time and authorization for the required fee accompany this amendment, extending the period of reply to December 5, 2007 is attached. The Commissioner is authorized to withdraw any additional fee or credit any overpayment necessitated by this response to Deposit Account No. 18-1982.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xuhong Sunny Wang', written over a horizontal line.

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